RICHARDSON, WILLIAM A.

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CONTEMPORARIES

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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

William A. Richardson

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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RICHARDSON, WILLIAM A.

Wilcox, David F. Quincy and Adams County history and representative men. Chicago, Lewis pub. co., 1919. v. 2, pp. 833-34.

"... Hon. William A. Richardson (jr.)...was born in the capital city of the United States, while his honored father was serving as a member of Congress, June 24, 1848. His parents were William A. and Cornelia H. (Sullivan) Richardson, his father a native of Kentucky and his mother of Vincennes, Indiana. In 1831 the elder William A. Richardson came to Illinois and was married January 18, 1838, and his family numbered seven children, four of whom lived to manhood and womanhood: Helen Richardson Dwight, George J., William A. and John S.

Four years after coming to Illinois from Kentucky, the Legislature of Illinois elected Colonel Richardson state's attorney for the fifth judicial circuit, in 1836 he was elected to the legislature from Schuyler County; in 1838 was chosen a member of the State Senate; and in 1844, again a member of the Lower House, was made speaker. When the Mexican War broke out he raised a company and led it to the front and for gallant conduct at Buena Vista was made a lieutenant colonel. While yet in Mexico he was nominated as a candidate for Congress and on his return home was elected to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Senator Douglas, and served in that representative body for ten years, and in 1856 was put forward by the democratic party of Illinois as its nominee for governor. In 1857 President Buchanan appointed him governor of Nebraska. In 1860 he was returned to Cobgress from the Quincy district and in 1863 was chosen to fill the vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the death of Judge Douglas and for more than thirty years was a prominent factor in public affairs. Colonel Douglas' death occurred December 27, 1875...."

There is a lengthy account in Senator William A. Richardson in the Past and present of the city of Quincy and Adams County, Illinois, By W. H. Collins & C. F. Perry (Chicago, 1905), pp. 402-407. A photostat copy can be made for you by a local commercial firm and billed direct to you if desired.

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